



13 November 2018

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 18/09/00427

File Number: ADF2018/191625

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision

On 11 September 2018, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) received a request for access to document under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a decision on your request for access under the FOI Act.

1 Scope of request

You have requested access to the following document:

Permanent and Temporary Visa Data for Engineering Occupations in ANZSCO Minor Group 233 'Engineering Professionals' Part A - Information Required I am seeking to obtain details about the annual number of permanent residence visas issued for each of the 21 six-digit occupations in ANZSCO Minor Group 233 'Engineering Professionals' (see below under Engineering Occupations of Interest). I am seeking this information for the 2017-18 financial year only. For each engineering occupation, for the 2017-18 financial year, I am seeking a breakdown of the number of visa grants for the following permanent visa categories: - Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) - Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (subclass 187) - Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189) - Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) - Skilled Regional visa (subclass 887) Part B - Information Required I am seeking to obtain details about the annual number of temporary residence visas issued for each of the 21 six-digit occupations in ANZSCO Minor Group 233 'Engineering Professionals' (see below under Engineering Occupations of Interest). I am seeking this information for the 2017-18 financial year only. For each engineering occupation, for the 2017-18 financial year, I am seeking a breakdown of the number of visa grants for the following temporary visa categories: - Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (Subclass 457) - Skilled - Recognised Graduate via (subclass 476) - Temporary Skill Shortage visa (Subclass 482) - Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) (Graduate Work Stream) –

Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) (Post-Study Work Stream) - Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 489) Fee Waiver I request a fee waiver for obtaining this information, since it is of significant public interest. It is of interest to Australia's 105,000 professional engineers, their families, and tens of thousands of engineering students. It is of general interest to the media, and is part of a wider debate about excessive immigration levels of professionals such as engineers, accountants and ICT professionals. See the following links as examples:

www.engineeroversupply.weebly.com

<<http://www.engineeroversupply.weebly.com>>

<<http://www.smh.com.au/business/workplace-relations/engineers-imported-from-overseas-as-australians-struggle-to-find-jobs-20161220-gtes3q.html>>

Understanding the scale and nature of engineering migration is important for understanding how the engineering labour market is impacted, at a time when the overall supply: demand ratio for engineers remains close to the all-time high.

**Engineering Occupations of Interest* ANZSCO Classification (Australian Bureau of Statistics) Major Group: 2 Professionals Sub-Major Group: 23 Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals Minor Group: 233 Engineering Professionals Unit Group Occupation 2331 Chemical and Materials Engineers 233111 Chemical engineer 233112 Materials engineer 2332 Civil Engineering Professionals 233211 Civil engineer 233212 Geotechnical engineer 233213 Quantity surveyor 233214 Structural engineer 233215 Transport engineer 2333 Electrical Engineers 233311 Electrical engineer 2334 Electronics Engineers 233411 Electronics engineer 2335 Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers 233511 Industrial engineer 233512 Mechanical engineer 233513 Production or plant engineer 2336 Mining Engineers 233611 Mining engineer (excluding petroleum) 233612 Petroleum engineer 2339 Other Engineering Professionals 233911 Aeronautical engineer 233912 Agricultural engineer 233913 Biomedical engineer 233914 Engineering technologist 233915 Environmental engineer 233916 Naval architect 233999 Engineering professionals nec (not elsewhere classified)*

2 Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access document or to amend or annotate records.

3 Relevant material

In reaching my decision I referred to the following:

- the terms of your request
- the document relevant to the request
- the FOI Act
- Guidelines published by the Office of the Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the FOI Guidelines)
- advice from Departmental officers with responsibility for matters relating to the document to which you sought access

4 Document in scope of request

In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, the Department has used its computer system to produce one document that contain[s] information that falls within the scope of your request. The data produced in the document existed in the possession of the Department on 11 September 2018 when your FOI request was received.

5 Decision

The decision in relation to the document in the possession of the Department which fall within the scope of your request is as follows:

- Release one document in full

6 Legislation

A copy of the FOI Act is available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017C00251>. If you are unable to access the legislation through this website, please contact our office for a copy.

7 Your Review Rights

Internal Review

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of this decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe a review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days.

Applications for review should be sent to:

By email to: foi.reviews@homeaffairs.gov.au

OR

By mail to:
Freedom of Information Section
Department of Home Affairs
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of this decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a request for a review to the OAIC, please see Fact Sheet 12 "Freedom of information – Your review rights", available online at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-reviews>.

8 Making a Complaint

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your request.

Your enquiries to the Australian Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)
Email enquiries@oaic.gov.au

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify the Department of Home Affairs as the relevant agency.

9 Contacting the FOI Section

Should you wish to discuss this decision, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Section at foi@homeaffairs.gov.au.

